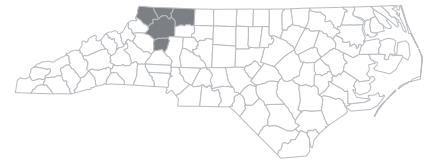


THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S Information Technology Program



The Information Technology program¹ was only recently established in 2016. In FY 2019-20, WCC enrolled 100 students in the program. Of these students, 28 graduated with a certificate and six graduated with an associate degree in FY 2019-20.



THE WCC SERVICE REGION, NC

CAREER OUTLOOK

The Information Technology program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include web developers & digital interface designers; computer systems analysts; and information security analysts. Many of the Information Technology program students will enter the WCC Service Region² workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (13) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 WCC completers who may fill these openings (34), we arrive at a surplus of 21 student completers.³ There are seven unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the WCC Service Region. The top three posting companies are Dell Technologies, Inc.; General Dynamics Corporation; and Lowe's Companies, Inc.

ALUMNI IMPACT

Former students of WCC's Information Technology program added \$111.6 thousand in income to the WCC Service Region economy in FY 2019-20. This figure represents the increased wages collected by former students active today in the regional workforce as a direct result of their education, the increased output of businesses that employ these students, and the multiplier effects that occur.

PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING METRICS IN THE WCC SERVICE REGION

Number of occupations	8
Jobs (2020)	378
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+1.1%
Annual openings (2020)	13
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$61,004

* The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings
increase per completer
\$419.6 thousand

Total alumni impact
in FY 2019-20
\$111.6 thousand

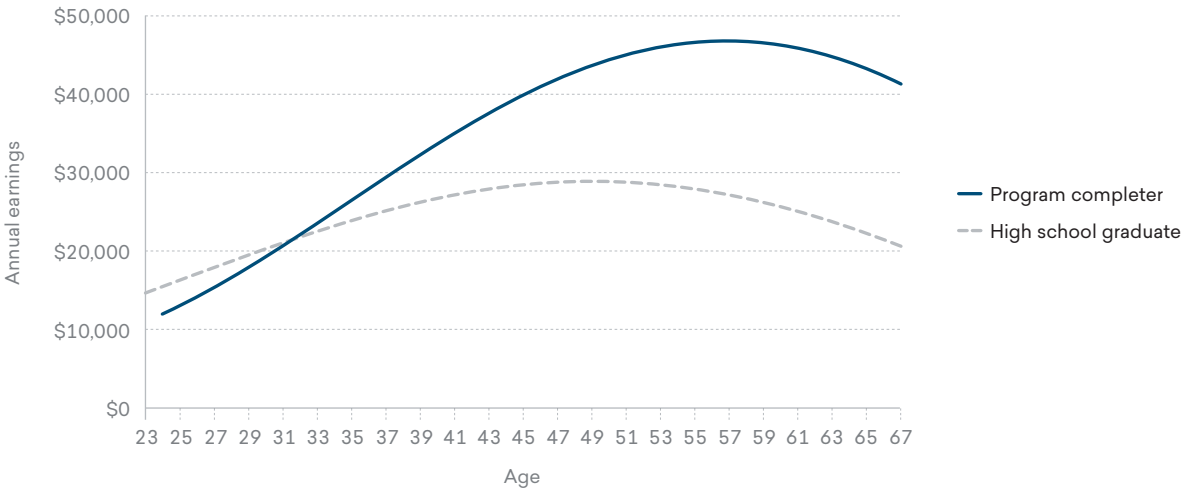


- 1 The Information Technology program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes: Information Technology (11.0103), Computer Programming/Programmer, General (11.0201), and System, Networking, & LAN/WAN Management/Manager (11.1002).
- 2 For the purposes of this analysis, the WCC Service Region is defined as Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany, Alexander, and Surry Counties.
- 3 For the purposes of this analysis, only WCC completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.

STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree or certificate in the program, students experience costs in the form of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and the opportunity cost of attending school instead of working. In return for this investment, students can earn higher wages. For every dollar students invest in their education in the program, they will receive \$14.60 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 31.5%. This is an impressive return, especially when compared to the U.S. stock market 30-year average return of 10.6%.


LIFETIME EARNINGS OF A PROGRAM COMPLETER COMPARED TO A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



TAXPAYER BENEFITS

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$2.3 million in added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses. Savings to the public sector add another estimated \$59.8 thousand in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded social services in North Carolina. Throughout the students' working lives, North Carolina taxpayers will receive a total of \$2.4 million in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, **North Carolina taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings



\$2.4 million